

# SENIOR SAFETY STARTS WITH YOU

**Reduce your risk  
by being aware of three common crimes  
that take advantage of seniors.**

Seniors are frequently targeted by fraudsters, distraction thieves and others who resort to elder abuse. You can reduce your risk by being aware of three common crimes that take advantage of seniors.

## **1. SCAMS**

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Many scam artists attempt to trick seniors out of their savings by posing as their grandchild, a Canada Revenue agent and a Police Officer or a lawyer.

A scam directed at many unsuspecting seniors involves a telephone call from a person posing as your grandchild for the purpose of attempting to trick you into believing that they were arrested for drinking and driving. This person will then turn the phone over to a second person posing as a Police Officer or lawyer who will ask for bail money. The scammer will tell you not to call the parents (your son or daughter) as they don't want you to find out it's a fraud.

Another common fraud involves a person posing as a Canada Revenue agent who threatens you with arrest then makes a demand for money.

Neither of these calls are real. They are designed to scare you into sending money on a moment's notice. Do NOT believe the caller, no matter how convincing they may sound. Phone someone you know and trust in the event that you're unsure.

## **2. DISTRACTION THEFTS**

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Distraction thieves target seniors wearing gold jewellery for the purpose of taking it without their knowledge. They do this by skillfully removing the jewellery after making an excuse to get close to you.

This can include asking for directions then rewarding you with a necklace or pretending that they are good friends with you so that they may hug or shake your hand.

Always be wary of strangers who want to give you something or claim that they know you in order to invade your personal space.

Tell them to:

- STAY BACK! and,
- DON'T TOUCH ME or I will call the Police!

Never be fooled by a distraction thief no matter how friendly they may act!

### 3.ELDER ABUSE

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Elder abuse can take many forms including making a demand for money from people you rely on, including family members. Persons suffering from elder abuse tend to be re-victimized.

Do NOT allow anyone to hurt or otherwise take advantage of you—this includes family members. If you are or suspect someone you know is the victim of elder abuse, seek help from Police, a healthcare professional or someone you trust.

For further info on this topic and other crime prevention topics, check out the crime prevention section of the Toronto Police website or scan the QR code below:



**IF YOU SEE A CRIME IN PROGRESS DIAL  
9-1-1 TO REPORT SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY  
DIAL 416-808-2222  
VICTIM SERVICES DIAL 416-808-7066  
WWW.TORONTOPOLICE.ON.CA**

OCCURRENCE #

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DIVISION #

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CONTACT #

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